

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7796
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1386

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, ET, CU, SO
SUBJ: POLISH VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA

1. DURING COCKTAIL RECEPTION CONVERSATION MARCH 24, POLISH AMBASSADOR GRELA CONFIRMED TO POLCOUNS THAT HIGH-RANKING EPMG DELEGATION WAS IN EAST BERLIN EARLIER IN WEEK FOR CONVERSATIONS ON ERITREAN QUESTION. GRELA MAINTAINED THAT USSR, GDR, AND CUBA ALL FAVORED POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY RESOLUTION OF ERITREAN INSURRECTION, AND THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE ACTIVELY COUNSELING EPMG TO ACCEPT MEDIATION OF DISPUTE, BUT THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE RELUCTANT.

2. ASKED WHETHER SUDAN HAD MEDIATING ROLE TO PLAY AS WELL, GRELA COMPLAINED THAT SUDAN WAS TOO CLOSE TO SECESSIONIST GROUPS. WHEN PRESSED AS TO HOW THESE GROUPS COULD OTHERWISE BE BROUGHT TO NEGOTIATING TABLE, HE SUGGESTED WITHOUT ELABORATING THAT LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY BE KEY FACTOR ON THIS ASPECT OF PROBLEM. GRELA ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT USSR
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DID NOT ENVISAGE SOLUTION IN WHICH ALL THREE INSURRECTIONIST GROUPS WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN NEWLY FORMED AUTONOMOUS ERITREAN GOVERNMENT WITHIN ETHIOPIA, BUT ONLY THOSE GROUPS WHOSE IDEOLOGY IS COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF EPMG ITSELF. (THOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, HE PRESUMABLY WAS REFERRING TO EPLF AS NUCLEUS, WITH POSSIBLY ADDITIONAL MARXIST ELEMENTS FROM OTHER GROUPS.)

3. GRELA ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ETHIOPIA HAS NOT YET AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN APRIL 10 OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING IN LAGOS, BUT HE WAS STILL HOPEFUL THEY WOULD DO SO WITHOUT DEMANDING THAT SOMALIA FULFILL IN ADVANCE ETHIOPIA'S CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF OGADEN WAR. EVEN IF ETHIOPIA DOES SHOW UP, HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD PRESS HER DEMANDS WITHIN COMMITTEE RELENTLESSLY, COUNTING ON OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SOMALIA TO SUBMIT TO THEM.

4. GRELA ALSO OFFERED GRATUITOUS VIEW THAT CUBAN POLICY IN ETHIOPIA AND ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA HAD AMONG ITS OTHER PURPOSES LONGER RANGE GOAL OF CAUSING US TO WITHDRAW FROM GUANTANAMO. (PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTALLY, ETHIO-CUBAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED EARLIER SAME DAY URGED "IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RETURN TO CUBAN PEOPLE OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY, GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE.) IN GRELA'S OPINION, CUBA'S AFRICAN GAMBIT WAS WELL THOUGHT OUT POWER PLAY, AGAINST WHICH US TO DATE HAS FAILED TO COME UP WITH SATISFACTORY RIPOSTE.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE COLLECTIVE.
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